

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40 were noted as pending in the application; claims 1, 2, 7, 9 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40 were allowed; and claims 3, 4, and 8 were rejected. By this amendment, claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 15 have been amended. Thus, claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40 remain pending in the application. The rejections of the Office Action are discussed below.

Telephone Examiner Interview

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the time he took and the courtesy he extended on February 20, 2008 in a telephone interview with the undersigned. The rejection of claims 3, 4, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was discussed; and the undersigned suggested an amendment to these claims to overcome the rejection. The Examiner graciously agreed that the proposed amendment would resolve the rejection. The Examiner and the undersigned discussed and agreed that claims 7, 11, 12, and 15 should also be amended in a similar manner for purposes of consistency.

Rejection of Claims 3, 4, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2)

In item 2, on page 1 of the Office Action, claims 3, 4, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, 4, and 8 have been amended herein in accordance with a telephone interview held with the Examiner on February 20, 2008. Claims 7, 11, 12, and 15 have also been amended herein in a similar manner for purposes of consistency, as also discussed during the telephone interview. Accordingly, the Applicant believes the rejection of claims 3, 4, and 8 has been overcome, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicated in item 3, on page 1 of the Action, that claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40 are deemed allowable over

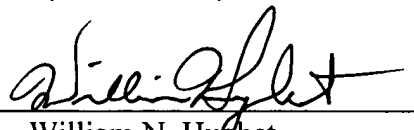
the prior art of record, pending resolution of the rejection of claims 3, 4, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 3, 4, and 8 has been resolved by amendment herein; and, accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Summary

It is submitted that the sole remaining rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and that all pending claims, namely claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40, are deemed to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 50-4047.

Respectfully submitted,
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